

## MINUTES

### **Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District 721 Foster Street Durham, NC 27701**

Meeting Number: 09 (Farmland Advisory Board)    Date: August 14, 2008

#### **Advisory Board Present:**

Neil Frank, at Large  
Douglas Daye, Flat River VAD  
Bo Glenn, Open Space Representative  
Kathryn Spann, Soil & Water Representative  
Aileen Glasgow, Business Representative  
Billy Cooley Farm Bureau Representative  
Becky Heron- County Commissioner  
Anna Andrews - Eno VAD  
John M. Jones – Little River VAD

#### **Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson, Soil & Water  
Lisa Marochak, Soil & Water  
Jennifer Brooks, Soil & Water  
Lynwood Faison, Soil & Water  
Michelle Wallace- Durham County Cooperative  
Extension  
Debbie Roos – Chatham County Cooperative  
Extension  
Wendy Seddon- Open Space  
Richard Morgart- Tax Administration  
Julie Elmore – Piedmont RC&D Council

1. **Welcome** –Chairman Neil Frank called the Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting to order at 8:08AM.
2. **Minutes** – Minutes were read by Anna Andrews-Eno VAD. Farm Bureau Representative Billy Cooley made a motion to approve the minutes. Business Representative Aileen Glasgow seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **VAD Update** – Director of Durham SWCD Eddie Culberson reported that he has two new applicants since the last meeting. The first applicant is Mary Chambers Latta on Bacon rd for 29.765 acres. The second applicant is for Barry Blalock on Bacon Rd for 47.421 acres. John Jones, Little River VAD made a motion to accept the two applicants in the VAD Program. Farm Bureau Representative Billy Cooley seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
4. **Easement Update** - Wendy Seddon with Open Space reported that there were recently two articles in the Durham Herald Sun. One of the articles was on Neil Frank's Farm and the other was on Bill Lee's Farm. Seddon passed out a copy of the two articles to the board. Seddon reported that they have had some interest in easements and they have some meetings scheduled with some farmers to discuss the easement. Seddon reported that they did hear back from the state on the Tilley Farm and they did fund the \$398,000. Seddon passed out a map of the Tilley Project to the board. Seddon reported that they met with McFarland this week and they had a few minor issues about boundary gaps. Seddon reported that the Federal Program likes everything neat and tidy so they are trying to iron out some little details so the boundary gap can be included in the easement. Seddon reported that when they met with McFarland they decided to give the attorney's another two weeks to try and resolve the little details if not Seddon reported they will adjust the easement boundaries so they can continue moving forward. Durham Soil and Water Representative Kathryn Spann reported that she spoke with Mr. McFarland and he expressed the lack of communication he has had with Open Space. Spann expressed her concern to the board and Wendy Seddon that there needs to be some form of better communication in the future.

Culberson reported that he has 4 more people that would like their names added to the list of potential conservation easements. The four names are Gerald Thacker, Mary Chambers Latta, Barry Blalock & Francis Terry.

## **5. Other Business**

- A. Southern High School-** Lynwood Faison with Durham Soil and Water reported that a couple of months ago he reported that Southern High Schools woodworking Department was in need of some money to help pay for the cost of the sign post that they build for the VAD signs. Faison reported that since that meeting he has spoken with Don Ramsey and Don Bryson with Southern High School and they said that they have the money to purchase the hardware needed for the signs but they would like to reward the students for all of their hard work and they do not have any extra money to buy pizza, etc for the students. A motion was made by Farm Bureau Representative Billy Cooley to allot \$200 from the Farmland Protection Board Budget to give to the Southern High School Woodworking Department for constructing the signs for the VAD program. Soil & Water Representative Kathryn Spann seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. County Commissioner Becky Heron reported that it would be a good idea to have the Teachers & some of the students from the Southern High School Woodworking class to come to a work session. Culberson reported that they will talk with Don Bryson and see if they can come.
- B. Farmland Plan** –Jennifer Brooks with Soil & Water reported that she wrote a grant to help pay for a consultant for the Farmland Plan a couple of months ago and she just found out that we were awarded \$30,000 from NC Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services/Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation (ADFP) Trust Fund.
- C. Annual Report-** Lisa Marochak with Durham Soil & Water passed out a copy of the Annual Report to all of the Board Members. Marochak reported that the Annual Report will be presented to the County Commissioners at their next work session on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am.

## **6. New Business**

- A. Piedmont RC&D** – Director Eddie Culberson reported that Durham County was recently adopted in the Piedmont RC&D Council. Julie Elmore Coordinator for the Piedmont RC&D explained the RC&D program to the board. Elmore reported that they are currently accepting new board members and at present they have two from Durham County. Talmage Layton and Wendy Jacobs. Elmore reported that they can accept one more from Durham County. Elmore reported that they are a non-profit board and they are looking for Financial Planners, Legal Assistance, etc.
- B. Debbie Roos with Chatham County Cooperative Extension** – Per the request from the Farmland Board Debbie Roos with the Chatham County Cooperative Extension came and did an overview of her Small Farm Program.
- C. Anna Andrews** – Chairman Neil Frank reported that he received a letter from Anna Andrews today that she will be resigning as a member and volunteer representative of the Eno Voluntary Agricultural District of the Farmland Protection Board effective August 31, 2008.

**7. Set Next Meeting Date** – The board set the next meeting date for Thursday, September 18th at 8:00am

**10. Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Neil Frank adjourned the meeting at 9:50 AM.

*Neil Frank*

Chairman

*Talmage Layton*

Vice Chairman

